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John spotted the initial clue during a recent visit to the Council depot on the Common. A curious 6 inch diameter cast iron post with a decorative finial, it stands 6 feet above the original ground level in the southeast corner of the service apron area in front of the only remaining brick building, part of the original grandstand complex. It is sandwiched between a c1960s concrete fence post and a galvanised steel post supporting modern plastic covered steel link fencing.

Further investigation amongst the years of accumulated dense undergrowth of Brambles and Ivy uncovered a matching post, a hinged gate mounted between them, and complete with some 70 feet of wrought iron railing. These are intact, leaded into a stone plinth, surmounting four or five brick courses. The whole length is still supported from the rear with periodically spaced and welded bracing bars.

Looking at old photographs of the Race course and Grandstand buildings, this railing is probably mid/late Victorian and once painted white. It originally surrounded the eastern and southern boundary of what now is the Council depot site. Currently there are traces of green paint in evidence, particularly on the gateposts, reminiscent of a more complete railing John recalls seeing in place in the late 1950s and early 60s. Chelmsford Borough Council's attention has been drawn to the existence of the remains of the railing, and they have been requested to include this and the remains of the Napoleonic Fortifications, for public interpretation within their new 10 year management plan for Galleywood Common.

John would be pleased to hear from anyone who has photographs including these railings; family memories handed down from forebears who may have been involved in their making and erecting; or maybe some other pieces of the missing railing.

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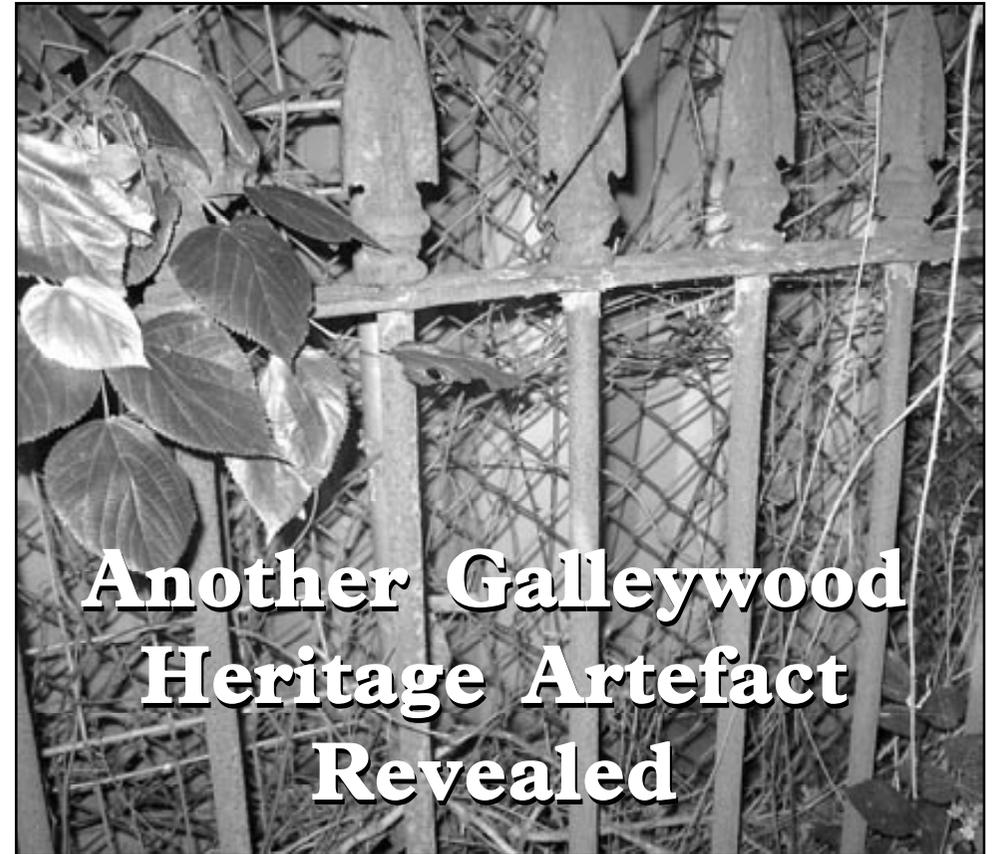
Comments or contributions to this Newsletter would be welcomed by the editor
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PAST TIMES

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Another Galleywood Heritage Artefact Revealed

THE long forgotten remains of wrought iron, spear-headed railing have been discovered by Parish Council Chairman, John Turkentine. This railing originally surrounded the public enclosure in front of the main grandstand, overlooking the finishing post on the old racecourse.

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**Our next
meeting**

THE HISTORY OF GALLEYWOOD CARNIVAL

A talk by

Keith Liley

Carnival Chief Marshal

and John Smee

*Chairman of the
Carnival Committee*



Galleywood Carnival Queen in 1985
Pauline Edwards.
with Deputy Queen Teresa Low and
princesses Susan Abbot and
Joanne Buckley
picture from Essex Chronicle

Wednesday 21 September 2005
Keene Hall Watchouse Road at 8 pm

DATES for your Diary

16 Nov ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD AND THE
GALLEYWOOD BOUNDARY STONES
Talk by John Turkentine
Chairman Galleywood Parish Council

2006
8 March THE CHAPLIN FAMILY OF GALLEYWOOD
Talk by Christine Whybro and John Chaplin

Pauline Potts writes about some of the earlier inhabitants of **THE OLD VICARAGE**

I was interested in Joan and Charles Comport's article in Past Times about the Old Vicarage in Galleywood. Some years ago, I wrote an essay about Great Baddow church for a local history class and I found, in Chelmsford library, a photocopy of the chapter in James Hamilton's biography about his time in Gt Baddow Parish.

He was the son of a London 'gentleman' and was educated at Oxford. He was presumably not used to country life and in the days before the railway reached Chelmsford, Galleywood must have seemed a remote place. He took up residence in the spring of 1832 some weeks prior to his ordination. It seems that his father had been teasing him about the climate and depicted the inhabitants as 'ferocious men with donkey carts'. However in a letter to his father James assured him that they had 'been mostly transformed into very harmless women and children who travel about the neighbourhood with produce for the Chelmsford market.'

James's mother came to help him settle in and after her departure he seems to have felt rather lonely with only his manservant for company. This was to be remedied in September when he married Mary Miles at Hampstead church. He was ordained on May 21. On his first Sunday he assisted at the Communion in the morning and conducted the afternoon service. On his third Sunday Mr Bramston was away and left his new curate to conduct both services. James told his father that he found sermon writing harder than he had expected and needed to learn the art of expansion to make his sermons long enough.

When the Revd John Bramston proposed the erection of a school and chape-of-ease at Galleywood, he referred to the demoralising effect of the races and he presumably hoped that a resident clergyman, to keep an eye on the inhabitants, would be beneficial. In a letter to a friend James spoke about the races as follows: 'Last Sunday I had the painful duty of preaching against the races which are now going on, and a dreadful scene, I expect, will ensue. We have all the abandoned characters for miles around congregated on the common for two days and two nights and you can imagine how it demoralises the people. The rich little think when they roll away in their carriages what a miserable set they have left behind and have helped to collect.' On Mr Brampton's move to Witham, James was appointed Vicar on July 13, 1840 but did not stay in this particular position for long. On June 26, 1841 he became rector of Bedlington, Surrey, where he remained until his death on April 7, 1860. He was buried in the churchyard there and the Hospital of St Mary was built in his memory.